



**Legislative Assembly
Province of Alberta**

No. 13

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Second Session

Twenty-Sixth Legislature

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

The Speaker took the Chair at 1:30 p.m.

Ceremony - Alberta Legislative Assembly Centennial

Speaker's Statement

The Speaker stated that 100 years ago today at the hour of 3:00 p.m., the 25 Members of the first Legislative Assembly of Alberta came to order in a makeshift Chamber in the Thistle Roller and Ice Rink located only a short distance from this site. They heard the province's first Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable George Hedley Vicars Bulyea, outline the first steps to be taken in the evolution of the fledgling province.

Today we sit in the Chamber of a magnificent Legislature Building where we celebrate the Centennial of our Legislative Assembly, and in doing so give recognition and our profound thanks to the contributions of the 769 men and women who built and developed this institution beginning in 1905. Their vision, dedication, and sound judgment in serving the interests of Albertans have led us to where we stand today, a province with a high standard of living, productive and healthy citizens, and unparalleled potential for the future.

In celebrating 100 years of democracy in Alberta, we are thankful for the wisdom shown by our forebears in choosing the Westminster model of democratic governance, that despite its occasional foibles and frustrations, has demonstrated its staying power and effectiveness over 700 years of history.

The Speaker then called on His Honour the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, CM, AOE, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta, to address the Assembly.

His Honour the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor - Address to the Assembly

I am honoured to join you all today in paying tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. This is a proud day for we who are gathered in this Chamber. Indeed, it is a proud day for all Albertans.

Since 1906 the Legislative Assembly and those who served through it has been one of our most powerful and enduring symbols of democracy. While it is true that democratic ideals thrived in this land long before Alberta was a province, it is the Legislative Assembly and its special partnership of Crown and Assembly Members that gives us the means to govern in a truly democratic fashion. Since 1906 nearly 800 Albertans have responded to the call of public office. They have given their hearts and minds to serve as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Throughout our history Honourable Members have represented a variety of viewpoints and political affiliations. They have debated issues both great and small. Regardless of which side of the House they sat on or sit in, each has shown the highest degree of personal sacrifice, dedication, and commitment. Each person who has served in this Assembly has an intense desire to leave their communities and this province a better place than they found it.

As Her Majesty the Queen's representative in Alberta, I congratulate all of you on 100 years of service to the citizens of Alberta.

Pursuant to Government Motion 11, agreed to on March 13, 2006, the Speaker invited former Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Ray Speaker to address the Assembly.

Mr. Ray Speaker - Address to the Assembly

I want to say that it is a great opportunity to be able to say thank you for letting us as former Members be part of this ceremony today. Mr. Speaker, you have done a superb job. Thank you.

Your Honour, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues in the gallery are having a great time today. We want to thank you for that, and they want to thank you for this great time.

Your Honour, I should say, first of all, it's the first time I've appeared before the Bar. I'm off subject, and Mr. Speaker has only allowed me a limited amount of time, but I was threatened the first time I arrived at the Legislature that if I don't behave and if I didn't quit swearing, I may end up here. But I will behave.

Spending nearly 30 years in this place has allowed me a very special friendship with MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) dating back to 1935, some 70 years. I want to say something about those people. Every one of them was very strong in purpose. They came here because they wanted to represent their constituents, they wanted to do it in a democratic process, and they wanted to make sure that the individual needs of Albertans were well-met. I can only say again that our gallery here has a group of people that have made an excellent contribution to this Assembly and the Government and the democratic process of our province.

A few remarks on the lighter side. My first visit to this Legislature was 42 years ago on February 13 for the opening of the 1964 session of the Legislature. I walked from the hotel with a Member that was elected in 1935. He said, "I will show you what to do and when to do it." So I followed and went along with him. We entered the rotunda, and as I saw this new building and looked up, I said to myself, "Man, there's nothing like this in Little Bow." So then after that we proceeded up the marble steps and turned to the left. Now, that's the only time that I've done that.

The two of us proceeded to a room just outside of this door over here and we walked into this room. It was larger than it is today. It was a bare room and all that was on the wall was a series of coat hooks. My colleague said to me, "That's your hook right over there, hang up your hat and coat." which I did. Then as I turned, he said, "Over on the right here, through that open door, is the urinal. If you have to use it, go ahead." That was my introduction to this Legislature.

1964 was also a special session in that it was the first session to have a sound system. Prior to 1964 the Premier and the Government had difficulty in hearing the Opposition. That was for two reasons. It's not quite the same today, I understand. Democracy in Alberta had the habit of electing small oppositions. That was the first reason. The second reason was that at that time the Members of the Government brought the paper back into the Assembly, a local paper, and they read the paper during Question Period, so you couldn't hear anything.

I had a Scandinavian friend that was part of the Legislature at that time. I said, "That was prior to my time. What was the name of that paper?" He said, "Well, gee whiz, I tink dat was de Edmonton Urinal." Anyway, at that point in our history the Opposition was finally heard. Also, we had Hansard introduced in the same session and you could read what the Opposition had to say to the Government at that point in time.

Well, the 1964 session ended with a volley of paper from the press gallery and that signalled two things. Certainly, first of all, that the session was over, and secondly, that as Members, and you don't go through this practice, we all came out this door. We lined up at the Clerk's Office over here and there was the Clerk's counter. We all lined up and as your turn came to approach the counter, you were given two things. First of all, your annual pay cheque, and it was one cheque, no deductions. Secondly, you were given your annual supplies. Mr. Speaker, as a note I want to say that it wasn't a briefcase with a million dollars in it. It was a cardboard box, and in that cardboard box

was the following: one pack of legislative paper, one pack of envelopes, four steel loose-leaf rings, one eraser, and one box of paper clips. Now I tried to understand that, but I understood it better and respected it, this kind of frugality, when I was reminded by some of the Members at that time that in 1935 public servants couldn't be paid by the Government. So it was part of that era.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, and certainly Members here, things have changed, but I think the constant that we have in this Legislative Assembly is the democratic process that keeps us free and able to speak our minds and give our opinions. If we could look back and witness 100 years of our democratic system that has been in partnership with the private sector of our province, the way to observe it, the most obvious way, is in our success as Alberta. First of all, today, and I just happened to read the third-quarter annual report of the Finance Minister, \$24 billion in the budget, \$7 billion as a surplus, no deficit, no debt. We have a Heritage Savings Trust Fund that is active and viable, specifically in research. We have an infrastructure in this province of roads, of schools, of public buildings, of hospitals, and telecommunications. We have a funded program of health care and social services. Along with that, in our private sector we have a broad diversity, which is most important. We can all agree that that's most exciting, that in 100 years we have moved from a frontier province of homesteaders to a diversity and combination of public and private opportunities that are second to none in this province.

In my recent travels to Ottawa and other places in Canada, I can report to all of you that Alberta is the envy of all Canada. Congratulations. Mr. Premier, you know what I think, it's time that we throw a party.

In our 100 years, former Governments have set the stage for this progress, and with the Members that are former Members that are here, I think historically as to what has happened, that we should recognize that. For example, the Government of Premier Brownlee in 1930 secured for Alberta provincial rights to our public lands and natural resources, and that was a promise made by the Laurier Government in 1905. Premiers Aberhart and Manning in the 1940s legislated a checkerboard system of resource development and a resource reserve program to manage Alberta's provincial oil and gas resources. Premier Strom in the 1970s supported resource development and balanced the first billion dollar surplus budget for the Province of Alberta.

Premier Lougheed in the 1970s and the 1980s in battling constitutional and National Energy Program challenges ensured the protection of Alberta's natural resource ownership, specifically oil and gas, by insisting on the notwithstanding clause being in the Canadian Constitution Act of 1982. Premier Getty took courageous steps to diversify our Alberta economy to protect our public revenue in times of unexpected shifts. Premier Klein, you heard the call of Albertans in the 1990s to eliminate the deficit and the debt. Your Government listened at that time and you are to be congratulated.

That brings me back to today. This Government and this Opposition face a fantastic opportunity at the beginning of the next 100 years. Democracy holds the answer to what unfolds in the Province of Alberta.

With this privilege, on behalf of my colleagues here assembled, I wish you the best on the 100th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Following Mr. Speaker's address, the Assembly heard remarks from Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, Dr. Taft, Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition, and Mr. Mason, Hon. Leader of the New Democrat Opposition.

Mr. Martin, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview, requested and received the unanimous consent of the Assembly to allow Mr. Hinman, Hon. Member for Cardston-Taber-Warner, to make remarks.

The Speaker then invited Mr. Paul Lorieau to lead the Members and guests in the singing of O Canada and God Save the Queen.

Members' Statements

Mr. Prins, Hon. Member for Lacombe-Ponoka, made a statement regarding Britny Martens and Danielle Hilsabeck, recipients of a 2006 Great Kids Award.

Mr. Marz, Hon. Member for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills, on behalf of Mrs. McClellan, Hon. Member for Drumheller-Stettler (Minister of Finance), made a statement regarding the fundraising efforts of the New Brigden School, a small school containing only 49 students.

Mr. Backs, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Manning, made a statement regarding democratic reform.

Mr. Cao, Hon. Member for Calgary-Fort, made a statement regarding the University of Calgary Human Performance Laboratory.

Mr. Goudreau, Hon. Member for Dunvegan-Central Peace, made a statement regarding 100 years of democracy in Alberta.

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, made a statement regarding the shortcomings of the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program.

Presenting Petitions

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung, presented a petition from 50 Albertans urging the Government to require school boards to eliminate all fees for instructional supplies and general school services and to ensure that the necessary resources for these supplies and services are provided.

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, presented a petition from 20 Edmonton residents urging the Government to call a public inquiry into Enron's role in the development of electricity deregulation in Alberta and their market conduct in the Power Pool of Alberta.

Tabling Returns and Reports

Mr. Elsalhy, Hon. Member for Edmonton-McClung:

2 letters, the first dated March 6, 2006, from Lorene Gervais of Edmonton and the second dated February 27, 2006, from Bryn Berezanski of Edmonton, both to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing concern regarding funding for persons with developmental disabilities

Sessional Paper 150/2006

E-mail message dated March 6, 2006, from Christel Hyshka to Hon. Mr. Klein, Premier, expressing opposition to the Government's proposed reforms to public health care, allowing doctors to work in both the public and proposed private health care systems, and a lack of public consultation on the issue

Sessional Paper 151/2006

Mr. Chase, Hon. Member for Calgary-Varsity:

42 letters dated February 28, 2006, from Edmonton residents to Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, expressing opposition to the cancellation of a national child care agreement

Sessional Paper 152/2006

Mr. Miller, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Rutherford:

7 letters dated February 28, 2006, from Edmonton residents to Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, expressing opposition to the cancellation of a national child care agreement

Sessional Paper 153/2006

Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar:

Notice of a public health care consultation meeting to be conducted by Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Gold Bar, on March 22, 2006, at the King's University College

Sessional Paper 154/2006

Mr. Taylor, Hon. Member for Calgary-Currie:

7 letters dated February 28, 2006, from Edmonton residents to Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, expressing opposition to the cancellation of a national child care agreement

Sessional Paper 155/2006

Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods:

6 letters dated February 28, 2006, from Edmonton residents to Mrs. Mather, Hon. Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, expressing opposition to the cancellation of a national child care agreement

Sessional Paper 156/2006

Hon. Mr. Kowalski, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:

Message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of the occasion of the Centenary of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Sessional Paper 157/2006

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Bills and Orders

Third Reading

The following Bill was read a Third time and passed:

Bill 22 Appropriation (Interim Supply) Act, 2006 (\$) — Hon. Mr. Hancock on behalf of Hon. Mrs. McClellan

Adjournment

On motion by Hon. Mr. Hancock, Government House Leader, and pursuant to Standing Order 4(3), the Assembly adjourned at 4:18 p.m. until Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

Hon. Ken Kowalski,
Speaker

Title: Wednesday, March 15, 2006